



**English Language Arts
Grade 7
Fall 2006**

**Peer Response to the
Student Reading Sample
Released Item #22
Scoring Guide**



1B: RESPONSE TO THE PAIRED READING SELECTIONS

DIRECTIONS:

Think about *both* of the selections in Part 1A as you answer the following question. You may look back at the selections as often as needed.

- 22 Humans and animals can never truly understand each other. Do you agree or disagree?**

Explain your answer using specific details and examples from *both* “Going Ape Over Language” and “Woodsong.” Be sure to show how the two selections are alike or connected.

Use the checklist on the next page to help you with your response. The Notes/Planning space may be used for writing down and organizing your ideas.

Your response must be written in the lined spaces starting on page 3 of your **Answer Document**. Only the writing in your **Answer Document** will be scored. No additional sheets may be used.

You may not use any resource materials (dictionaries, grammar books, spelling books, etc.) for any part of this test.

**PART 1B: CHECKLIST FOR THE
RESPONSE TO THE PAIRED READING SELECTIONS**

DIRECTIONS:

Use this checklist to help you with your response. Your response must be written in the lined spaces starting on page 3 of your **Answer Document**.

CHECKLIST:

- _____ Do I take a position and clearly answer the question I was asked?
- _____ Do I support my answer with specific examples and details from *both* reading selections?
- _____ Do I show how the two reading selections are alike or connected?
- _____ Is my response complete?

NOTES/PLANNING

Rubric for the Response to the Paired Reading Selections

- 6** The student clearly and effectively chooses key or important ideas from each reading selection to support a position on the question and to make a clear connection between the reading selections. The position and connection are thoroughly developed with appropriate examples and details. There are no misconceptions about the reading selections. There are strong relationships among ideas. Mastery of language use and writing conventions contributes to the effect of the response.
- 5** The student makes meaningful use of key ideas from each reading selection to support a position on the question and to make a clear connection between the reading selections. The position and connection are well developed with appropriate examples and details. Minor misconceptions may be present. Relationships among ideas are clear. The language is controlled, and occasional lapses in writing conventions are hardly noticeable.
- 4** The student makes adequate use of ideas from each reading selection to support a position on the question and to make a connection between the reading selections. The position and connection are supported by examples and details. Minor misconceptions may be present. Language use is correct. Lapses in writing conventions are not distracting.
- 3** The student takes a clear position on the question. The response makes adequate use of ideas from one reading selection **or** partially successful use of ideas from both reading selections to support the position. The position is developed with limited use of examples and details. Misconceptions may indicate only a partial understanding of the reading. Language use is correct but limited. Incomplete mastery over writing conventions may interfere with meaning some of the time.
- 2** The student takes a clear position on the question. There is partially successful use of ideas from one reading selection **or** minimal use of ideas from both reading selections to support the position. The position is underdeveloped. Major misconceptions may indicate minimal understanding of the reading. Limited mastery over writing conventions may make the writing difficult to understand.
- 1** The student takes a position on the question but only makes minimal use of ideas from one reading selection **or** the student attempts to support an unclear position with minimal use of ideas from both reading selections. Ideas are not developed and may be unclear. Major misconceptions may indicate a lack of understanding of the reading. Lack of mastery over writing conventions may make the writing difficult to understand.

Condition codes for unratable papers (zeroes):

A – Off Topic

B – Written in a Language other than English or Illegible

C – Blank or Refusal to Respond

D – Retells or references the reading selections with no connection to the scenario question or theme

E – Responds to the scenario question with no reference to either of the reading selections

Anchor Paper 1

45 In the story communication with apes.. Dr. Allen and his wife began teaching ASL at one year old. They thought her to write things in a note book. That was a great story in this selection.

But the woodsong it was a adventure really begins with differences. The had went camping They set camp fire. And there was snow were they was camping. These two stories was some great stories to read.

Anchor Paper 1
Score Point D

The student retells or references the reading selections with no connection to the question.

Anchor Paper 2

45 I agree. Because how can people talk to animals. I mean come on you hardly hear some of their voice or how they sound. Then you will have to teach them these letters.

The two selection are alike. By they both have a hart and they both have brains and can walk. They both have eye site. They both have to breath. They both can die. They can both get sick. They both can make baby.

Anchor Paper 2
Score Point D

The student responds to the question with no reference to either of the reading selections.

Anchor Paper 3

In My opinion I think that people working with animals is a good thing because they get to learning to talk to people and people learning to talk to animals.

In my first example the ASL^{ape} working with Ape and gorillas. The ape Hoe was talk-active and she was speaking words ASL can under stand. She know how to say words so clear.

In my second opinion the people in Woodsong was working with different animals. Know animals was talk active and know animals spoke a word. They were training animals to that is good.

In closing both stories are good and they both like to talk to animals it would be good if both stories can get all animals to talk it would be good if both stories was training animals that would be good to.

Anchor Paper 3
Score Point 1

The student attempts to support an unclear position with minimal use of ideas from both reading selections. An attempt at a connection is made ("... both stories are good and they both like to talk to Animals . . ."), but it is not creditable, as there is no evidence that the character in Woodsong likes to talk to animals. Additionally, misconceptions indicate a lack of understanding of the reading. ("... the ASL are working with Ape and gorillas. The ape . . . was speaking words ASL can under stand. She know how to say words so Clear.")

Anchor Paper 4

45 I disagree humans and animals all ways communicate. When you tell a dog to stop or sit, he does it that is communication. The theme a dog is a man's best friend because of communication. A lot of people would probly be dead if their animals did not communicate. Because, you need to know how to tell your animal to attack an enemy.

In the story Going Ape Over Language when Loulis mischievously ran away with one of her favorite magazines an annoyed Washoe signed, "Bad, Bad, Bad. The Ape recalls her cand bar cand banana."

Anchor Paper 4
Score Point 1

The student takes a position with minimal use of ideas from Going Ape. ("... when Loulis mischievously ran away with one of her favorite magazines an annoyed Washoe signed, 'Bad, Bad, Bad. The Ape recalls her cand bar cand banana.'"). The reference to the dog in the first paragraph is not text-based and thus is not creditable.

Anchor Paper 5

45 I disagree; Yes they can, like apes they talk to humans in sign language and humans are the ones who taught the apes how or we wouldn't communicate at all. Dogs and humans can not talk to each other because all dogs moan, and howl but one one day they'll find out how to know what they're saying.

Anchor Paper 5
Score Point 1

The student takes a position with minimal use of ideas from Going Ape. (“... apes they talk to humans in sign language and humans are the ones who taught how . . .”) The student attempts a non-specific reference to Woodson. (“Dogs and humans can not talk to each other because all dogs moan, and howl but one one day they'll find out how to know what they're saying.”)

Anchor Paper 6

I disagree because, The story "Going Ape Over Language" it tells about how Humans and apes understand each other. In the story "Woodson" it tells about dogs and how they understand. What I am trying to say is that both of the story's are proof that the question is wrong.

**Anchor Paper 6
Score Point 2**

The student takes a clear position and makes minimal use of ideas from both selections.

Anchor Paper 7

no I do not agree that humans and animals can never understand each other. For example: a dog can understand you by when you say sit, stay, or shake he c's so. You can also understand a dog by when he lays by the door you know he wants to go out.

Examples from the selections are in "Going Ape Over Language" they can communicate with Gorillas. in "Woodson" he knew that the dogs were sad

Those are my reason why humans And Animals can understand each other.

Anchor Paper 7
Score Point 2

The student takes a clear position. The support is minimal from both selections. ("they can communicate with Gorillas. . . . he knew that the dogs were sad")

Anchor Paper 8

Can Humans and Animals understand each other Effectively?

The key word here is "effectively", which I will present as "understandable in a short amount of time."

As is plain to see in "Going Ape Over Language," we have already achieved such a thing by use of Sign Language and Geometric Symbols. The use of Geometric Symbols is much more limited than Sign Language, but Man can only do so much. Gene Splicing would allow Animals to speak, but I look down upon such things as that to be vile, disgusting and cruel.

In Woodson, the man simply understands them, God knows how.

But, back to the previous story, I do believe that it may be possible to effectively understand some animals. Bugs (insects) being so small, and without much intelligence, I believe will be left forever as well, unintelligent. Fish, I believe, will be the same way.

**Anchor Paper 8
Score Point 2**

The student takes a clear position with the last paragraph, but it is underdeveloped. There is a partially successful use of ideas from one selection, Going Ape. ("... we have already achieved such a thing by use of Sign Language and Geometric Symbols. The use of Geometric Symbols is much more limited than Sign Language, but Man can only do so much.") The sentence referencing Woodson is merely an opinion. There is no attempt at a connection.

Anchor Paper 9

I disagree because in the selection "Going Ape Over Language" a chimpanzee, gorilla, and Bonbo learned to understand humans. Washoe (the chimpanzee) learned to sign in 1966. She knew how to sign 240 signs. Plus she could even understand some words spoken by humans. And sign in semi-sentences like "Roger Tickle Washoe". The gorilla Koko learned to sign in 1972 at the age of 1. She knew 1000 signs and could understand 2000 spoken words. Also, if she did not know what something was she would make up a name for it such as a mask would be "Eye Hat". Kanzi the bonobo can understand "Yerkish". He did not even get taught by a human. He learned it by watching his mother get taught. In the selection Woodsongs the dogs (more like pups) are communicating to a human. Like when they see the camp-fire, they were frightened when they saw it they were "screaming". But then when they got used to it they were fine; as a matter of fact they were fascinated by it But,

when is started to go away they were sad. So sad that they started to sing a sad song Like when they did when there master was leaving the kennel. So I believe what I have writen has proven that people and animals can understand each other.

Anchor Paper 9**Score Point 3**

The student takes a clear position. The response makes adequate use of ideas from both selections. The student does not attempt to make a connection.

Anchor Paper 10

I disagree that humans and animals could never understand each other. I disagree for a couple and I also have examples from stories that will support my opinion.

One reason I disagree that humans and animals could never understand each other is because both humans and animals are very smart and can learn fast. One story that supports my opinion is "Going Ape Over Language". In the story they teach a chimpanzee how to talk using American Sign Language. The chimp learns fast and can communicate with humans well. The chimp even teaches another monkey Sign Language. While this is going on, in Georgia they teach a gorilla how to use a code to talk called Yerkish. This story helps support me because how fast other animals can learn and it even has an example of humans and other communicating.

Another reason I disagree with the opinion that humans and animals can't understand each other is because humans and animals brains think sort of similar. A story that will support my opinion is

Woodsong. In the story a man gets a new bunch of dogs that have to get, learn and see many things. The dogs are young and the man is using them for sled dogs. Whenever he takes them out they always get distracted and chase something deep into the woods. The dogs slowly learn, just like man. One night the trainer takes his dog into the wood, into a clearing. The dog gets settled and ready to sleep when their trainer makes a fire. The dogs have never seen fire before the dogs naturally do know what to do. Finally they settle down and start to like the fire. When the fire goes out the dogs get sad and one sings a song to the moon. The man can tell the song is a sad song. This story supports my opinion because the dog sings the sad song even though the dog doesn't know what a sad song is, but it just has the instinct to make that kind of song up. That is an example of how man and animals brains are similar in thinking. These are the reasons I disagree that humans could never understand each other.

Anchor Paper 10
Score Point 3

The student takes a clear position. There is adequate use of ideas from each reading selection to support a position. There is some retelling of the stories, particularly with respect to Woodsong. There is no attempt at a connection. This is a strong 3.

Anchor Paper 11

I dissagree that humans and animals
can never understand each other.

Gotng Ape over language show that gorillas,
chimpanzees, and Bonobo learned ASL at a very young
age and grew knowing more we can communicate
with them by ASL.

In the story Wood song the author
wrote humans observing dogs and how they communicate
when they would sing song of sadness, happiness.
We can communicate with dog by observing them.

These two stories show that
humans can communicate effectively with
animals by ASL teaching, or observing each
other.

Anchor Paper 11
Score Point 4

The student takes a clear position. There are ideas from each reading selection to support a position, and to make a connection between the selections. (“... we can communicate with [the apes] by ASL . . . We can communicate with dog . . .”)

Anchor Paper 12

I disagree with the selection that says humans and animals don't understand each other because humans communicate just fine with animals by petting them, feeding them, or maybe even using Sign language with them.

Here is one good reason why I disagree with the selection, in. "going ape over language" the Apes and humans were communicating by using Sign language. When they use Sign language the Apes can tell the caregivers that their hungry, tired, sad, angry, or even when their thirsty.

Another reason is from the story "Wood Song", and in this story the man buys dogs for the Iditarod race in Alaska. When he took the dogs back to his house he made a fire, the dogs laid around the fire until it went out and then the dogs howled a song, but the man knew what they were trying to tell him.

The ways that these two story are alike is by both of the storys having to do with people understanding animals and communicating with them in different ways, whether its communicating with Actions, or even communicating with Sign language.

The reasons that I disagree with the selections is because, In both of the reading selections I read about humans communicating with animals by caring for them.

Anchor Paper 12
Score Point 4

The student makes adequate use of ideas from each selection to support a position on the question. ("... in 'Going Ape over language' the Apes and humans were communicating by using sign language. When they use sign language the Apes can tell the caregivers that their hungry, tired, sad, angry, or even when their thirsty. ... from the story 'Wood Song', ... he took the dogs back to his house he made a fire, the dogs laid around the fire until it went and then the dogs howled a song, but the man knew what they were trying to tell him.") Finally, the student makes a connection. ("... In both of the reading selections I read about humans communicating with animals ...") This response is a solid 4.

Anchor Paper 13

I disagree, about the fact that humans and other animals can never understand each other. Most of the time you can understand other animals. Even if it is a simple animal, such as a dog or cat. For example, most people have dogs and cats and they communicate with them. After a while you start getting attached to them. You say something like lay down and they do.

One way you can communicate with "cats" is when you want them to sit you press down on their backs, they get the feeling you want them to sit. This is the same with dogs for the blind. Obviously, they have to communicate with them to do even the most simple things.

My opinion relates to the stories in this selection. The first story "Going Ape over Language" points out that "Washoe" (an APE) uses sign language to communicate with humans. Another example is that whenever she (Washoe) hears a canine barking, she will signal the ~~signal~~ the word "DOG" indicating an animal. →

My opinion also relates to the second story "Woodsong". Gary was on a hundred-mile run in deep winter with new pups. Him and his pups found a soft little place to settle for the night. He made a fire hole in the snow. The pups went crazy with fear, or flames. He then let the fire die down. Just as he was about to go to sleep, the dogs started to sing. They kept signing the song "a come-back-and-don't go-away" it was a sad song. They were all staring at where the fire died down. They started understand fire, to missing it when it went away, so he was communicating with a human. So as you can see humans and other animals can communicate effectively with each other.

Both stories "Going Ape over Language" and "Woodsong" are alike. Both selections are about animal communication. There is a lot humans can learn about animal communication. Also both stories point out that it is better to study animals in the wild because it is much more effective and gives plenty more information than you would get from putting animals in laboratories and studying them.

Anchor Paper 13
Score Point 4

The student makes adequate use of ideas from each selection to support a position ("Washoe" [an APE] uses sign language to communicate with humans) and ("He made a fire hole in the snow. The pups went crazy with fear . . . He then let the fire die down. . . the dogs started to sing. . . it was a sad song.") and to make a connection (" . . Both selections are about animal communication."). This is a strong 4.

Anchor Paper 14

Will there be a time when animals rule the world? Maybe, but the chances of that are very slim. In the two stories 'Going Ape Over Language' and 'Woodsong' it shows that animals could be alot smarter than we think. In these stories a really good question comes up, Can humans and animals understand each other? You may have a different opion, but, yes I do think humans and animals can understand each other.

The first story I read was 'Going Ape Over Language'. It was about us, humans, teaching apes sign language. A gorilla named koko even knows 1,000 words in sign language and understands about 2,000 words! This story shows that it is possible to communicate with animals. Some of the Apes like, koko, even talk to themselves, or even to other aqes.

The second story I read was 'Woodsong'. It was about a man in the woods with his pups. When the man started the fire, the dogs feared it. In about an hour the dogs started understanding fire. They became sad when it died out. As the man tried to fall asleep, he noticed something. The dogs seemed like they were

singing a sad song. The man understood the dogs now missed the fire. By telling that the dogs were sad by there singing, they communicated with the man.

These, stories both have to do with communicating with animals. They prove it is possible to talk to animals. We can now understand the animals.

So do you still think we can't communicate with animals in an effective way? Well, I still think we can. Just think maybe someday we could have Apes as pets. I now know that animals are smarter than we think they are. They have feelings and understand stuff too. I know I won't be the one calling animals stupid anymore.

Anchor Paper 14
Score Point 5

The student makes meaningful use of key ideas from each reading selection to support a position on the question and to make a connection. (*"These, stories both have to do with communicating with animals."*) The position and connection are well-developed with appropriate examples and details, and the language is nicely controlled.

Anchor Paper 15

I disagree with the statement 'humans and animals can never truly understand each other.' Some could argue that the statement makes perfect scientific sense, and to disagree would be foolhardy. Those people would be wrong. Past experiments have shown that an African Gray Parrot can count, describe, voice thoughts, et cetera. Elephants can communicate with their drawing skills. Dolphins express understanding by doing what they're told—or not doing what they're told. Two stories express animal communication admirably—'Washoe' and 'Going Ape Over Language.'

In the first of the two, 'Going Ape Over Language,' the primates clearly understand what is being taught to them. A chimp named Washoe would sign 'bad, bad, bad' when she was annoyed, or 'please person hug' when she wanted affection. (Because chimps cannot speak, they must communicate with sign language.)

Koko was a gorilla much like Washoe in that she could utilize sign language. She displayed joy, sadness, and a few complex thoughts. On one occasion, she was caught eating a crayon. She signed 'lip' to get herself out of trouble. (She pretended the crayon was lipstick.)

Next up was Kanzi, a male bonobo who was very different from Koko and Washoe. He used geometric symbols for speaking in the stead of letters, appealing to a more mathematical mind.

In 'Woodsong,' Gary Paulsen (the author) tells of a day in the woods with a team of young sled dogs. He goes on to describe the journey, portraying the dogs as fearless, easily distracted animals. Then Mr. Paulsen describes the fire and the look of fear in the dogs' eyes. After a while,

however, the dogs learn to enjoy the fire, basking in its ample warmth. When the fire snuffs out, the dogs mourn for its loss. They sing a sad song for the vanishing of the thing that had scared them so much before.

These two reading selections are similar in quite a few ways. The most obvious being, of course, that they deal with communication in animals. But they also deal with something else. Something that's more important than communication with animals. Both writers deal with the growth of animals.

How often is it said that it doesn't matter if one is better than one's classmates if one has not improved upon oneself? The same applies to the animals in these stories. In the first selection, a gradual, intellectual growth in the primates is focused upon. In the second, the rapid, emotional growth of the dogs is the main topic.

Both selections deal with truly amazing feats from the animals. For most people, learning a foreign language can be challenging. But at least we have our own, similar language to base it off of. But the primates had no base for the language and still managed to learn and utilize it admirably. This would be the equivalent of you or I going to an alien planet and being taught by a patient, but completely foreign tutor.

Of course, the dogs' feat was no less amazing. They had transformed their fear into acceptance very quickly. If we could do that, we wouldn't need 5 stages.

For the reasons stated above, I truly believe that animals can communicate with people. Whether it's an elephant drawing a message with its long trunk, a budgerigar squawking out short sentences, or even, yes, emotion from dogs and sign language from primates; animals talk. But it's up to us to listen.

Anchor Paper 15**Score Point 6**

The student takes a clear position (*"I disagree with the statement 'Humans and animals can never truly understand each other'"*) and consistently chooses key details and examples in support (*"... the primates clearly understand what is being taught to them ... Washoe would sign ... when she was annoyed ... or when she wanted affection ... Koko ... could utilize sign language ... She displayed joy, sadness, a few complex thoughts ... [and] to get herself out of trouble ... They sang a sad song for the thing that had scared them so much before.*). Relationships among ideas are strong. Strong, insightful connections are made between the texts. (*"communication with animals. . . growth of animals . . . intellectual growth in the primates . . . emotional growth of the dogs . . . Both selections deal with truly amazing feats from the animals."*)